



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH 2011

Good morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Louis Bach and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA's 10,000 member companies represent the broad diversity of private enterprise in the state, and our membership is overwhelmingly comprised of small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. The following proposals are of interest to our membership.

SB 1171 AAC TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS: We offer our support to this proposal because workforce development is an important component to an economic turnaround in Connecticut. Creating a plan to review the status of the state economy, identifying sectors with the greatest potential for economic growth and long-term job creation, and encouraging collaborative efforts between private sector businesses and the state's public and private institutions of higher learning in developing new technologies and products are all positive steps. Fostering a closer working relationship between higher education and private enterprise is beneficial to graduates and employers, and the community as a whole.

SB 1172 AAC THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL. We support this measure, specifically Sec. 8(d), which creates a data center within the Department of Economic and Community Development to track economic cluster growth and the success of new businesses in order to inform future administrative and legislative action. Accounting for economic growth – or lack of it – is helpful in drafting future policies. The relative success of new companies should not be the only business trend that is tracked, however. A more complete understanding of economic growth necessitates including data on existing companies who are struggling to retain their employees and businesses. Tracking economic development is a good idea, but we should look at all relevant data to arrive at the best possible understanding of conditions.